

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 MC-02

DHA-02 /117 W

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R 071504Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3562

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1187

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0073

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, AO, UR, PINS

SUBJECT: SA CASUALTIES IN ANGOLA: SOVIETS STEP UP AID

1. JAN 7 PRESS HEADLINES REPORTED DEATHS OF FOUR SOUTH
AFRICAN PERMANENT FORCE MILITARY PERSONNEL, ONE A BRIGADIER,
IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A LIGHT AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT IN THE
"OPERATIONAL AREA" EARLY THIS WEEK. TWO OTHER SOLDIERS DIED
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OF WOUNDS. THE DEFENSE FORCES ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THREE

OTHER SOLDIERS ARE MISSING IN THE " OPERATIONAL AREA". PRESS PRESUMES THEY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE MPLA. NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS WERE PROVIDED, OTHER THAN THE IDENTITIES OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED.

2. PAPERS ALSO HEADLINE " RED TANKS JOIN PUSH" AND "WATCH ON RED WARSHIPS" IN ARTICLES QUOTING VARIETY OF SOURCES INDICATING GREATLY STEPPED UP MPLA OFFENSIVES IN ANGOLA AND EVIDENCE OF MOUNTING SOVIET SUPPORT INCLUDING TANKS, ROCKETS AND HELICOPTERS. SOVIETS ARE SAID TO HAVE STERNLY REJECTED AMERICAN ATTACKS ON SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

3. THE THREE MAJOR AFRIKAANS CHURCHES CALLED ON SHORT NOTICE FOR A DAY OF PRAYER TO BE HELD JAN 7, WITH THE OBJECT OF PRAYING FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN VIEW OF THE IDEOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DANGERS IT FACES. MAJOR ENGLISH CHURCHES COMPLAINED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY INVITED TO TAKE PART, AND BLACK LEADERS HAVE SAID IT WAS FUTILE FOR THEM TO TAKE PART WHILE THEY WERE STILL BEING DENIED BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. CATHOLIC, ANGLICAN AND METHODIST CHURCH LEADERS HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD HOLD SPECIAL SERVICES BUT WOULD INCLUDE PRAYERS FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY.
BOWDLER

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